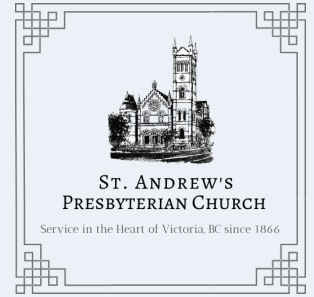


THIS WEEK AT ST. ANDREW'S



PARABLE OF THE PASTOR

Sunday, we heard from the prophet Jeremiah who was told, “Go down to the potter’s house, and there I will let you hear my words.”³ So I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was working at his wheel.⁴ The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter’s hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.”

The potter is God. We are the vessel. It is God who does the shaping and our responsibility is being shaped. When the first shaping fails, God begins again with the reshaping us in God’s image.

Do we believe that God is shaping us? How willing are we for God’s creative work? It all depends upon the hope that we have in God.

I was sent a reflection upon the book “Getting to Maybe” by Vaclav Havel which contains letters he wrote his wife Olga when imprisoned as a dissident. He writes, “First, “hope is a dimension of the spirit. It is not outside us, but within us.” Some months later he wrote, “The more I think about it, the more I incline to the opinion that the most important thing of all is not to lose hope and faith in life itself... This doesn’t mean closing one’s eyes to the horrors of the world - quite the contrary, in fact.”

“Havel made a critical distinction between hope and optimism.” Havel continues, “[Hope] is not the conviction that something will turn out well, but the certainty that something makes sense, regardless of how it turns out.”

I want to read more from Havel as I better understand the hope God, the potter has for the clay that is being molded into the image which is trying to be created? Do I as the shaped vessel exercise hope that God, the potter can do the creative work with me, with us, with our congregation? Havel encourages me and hopefully you as well... the most important thing of all is not to lose hope and faith in life itself. May it be so...

Thoughtfully,
Pastor Mitch

MUSIC NOTES

The choir is very happy to be back singing on Sunday morning. We look forward to many lovely anthems.

Organ music for Sunday: Intermezzo by Healey Willan, Carol by Kenneth Meek, Toccata by Theodore Dubois. Healey Willan is one of Canada's most famous composers. He was born in England and came to Canada in 1913. He wrote over 800 compositions for choir, orchestra, band, piano and organ. He is mostly known today for his organ music. Kenneth Meek wrote the Carol based on a Netherland melody for Easter or Holy Week. He was my first organ teacher. Theodore Dubois' Toccata was a piece my grandfather played in every recital he gave at his church in Peebles, Scotland. I have taken the last part for a postlude. I never knew my grandfather but somehow I, when I play it, feel connected to him and the lovely people I met at the church there many years ago.

- Christine Purvis

THE BULLETIN BOARD

Journey for Hope: Join friends from our sister Presbyterian Churches on 1 October to raise funds that will go directly to PWS&D food security project. Our local team is Together in Motion. We hope you will join us. Colina, Jean and Arthur plan to cycle with Laura. To join the ride contact Laura Kavanagh (lauratodd60@gmail.com) To join the walk contact Ruth McCowan (pzoom@shaw.ca) To contribute, go to WeRespond.ca/support-together-in-motion, or speak to Ruth or Laura.

ROOC Victoria Center Fall Social: Join us for the RCCO Victoria Center Fall 2022 in-Person Social. It's at St. Andrew's on Saturday, September 10, 2:00-4:00 pm - drop in anytime and stay as long as you like! Light refreshments will be available. Free organ sheet music and choral books will be available. Sort through and take home what you like!

Picnic in the Park: Joint picnic Sunday of our other Victorian Presbyterian congregations at Esquimalt / Gorge Park off Tillicum Road from 11:30-1:30. Bring a food for your family and one item to share with others, your table settings, chairs and energy to meet and greet with other Presbyterians.

Washrooms: Please be aware that the main floor washrooms in the Kirk Hall will be closed starting August 22nd for renovations. The second floor washrooms will remain in service. This work is expected to take approx three weeks.

Lane-way Social: Remember to drop in and join your St. Andrew's friends in the Lane-way on Thursday at 2:00 pm for refreshments and visiting!

The Link: the deadline for September contributors is September 25. Let us know what you have been doing over the summer! Contact: thelink@shaw.ca

Tea For Tutus Volunteers: Tea for Tutus will take place at 2pm on Oct 4th and 5th. Volunteers need to be there an hour before, event is approx. 45 mins in length. If you are able to help, please contact Ballet Victoria so they can organize their volunteers.